

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Serial No. 10/559,945

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for locating, in use, a guide wire at an axis of a neck of a patient's femur, the apparatus comprising:

a base part for securement to a head of the femur;
a second part securable to the base part and spherically adjustable relative thereto;
a third part for directly or indirectly receiving a wire guide, and arranged for plan or adjustment, the third part being securable to the second part; and
a sighting mechanism comprising a probe having a portion engagable with the head and/or neck of the femur.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sighting mechanism comprises a sighting element.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the sighting element is a disc.

Claim 4 (canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base part comprises a plurality of circular plates.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of circular plates has a central aperture.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of circular plates has an annular portion around its central aperture, the annular portion including a plurality of equi-angularly spaced apertures.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of equi-angularly spaced apertures in each circular plate comprises three equi-angularly spaced apertures.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the equi-angularly spaced apertures are threaded.
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base part comprises a plurality of headed studs, each headed stud having a pointed end remote from its head.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising an enclosure having a cylindrical lower portion and a part-spherical upper portion, the upper portion having a central opening.

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12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical lower portion of the enclosure is outwardly stepped to provide an annular groove so that assembly of the plurality of circular plates can be located inside an open end of the cylindrical lower portion.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising an adjustment member configured to be received within the enclosure.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the adjustment member has a generally cylindrical lower part with a part-spherical upper surface that substantially matches an interior surface of the part-spherical upper portion of the enclosure.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the adjustment member has, from the center of its part-spherical upper surface, a hollow cylindrical boss that projects through the central opening of the enclosure.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the generally cylindrical lower part of the adjustment member has equi-angularly spaced slots extending partly through the part-spherical upper surface of the adjustment member.

Claim 17 (canceled)

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18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a circular lock ring removably attachable to an exterior surface of the part-spherical upper portion of the enclosure.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a cannula guide configured to be received by the cylindrical boss.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a cannula guide configured to be received by the cylindrical boss when the cylindrical boss extends through a hole of the lock ring.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the cannula guide comprises an elongated cylindrical body having an external circular flange perpendicular to the body adjacent a reduced diameter end of the body.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein a sighting disc extends closely through a central circular aperture of a body of the cannula guide.

Claim 23 (canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 23, wherein the base part is a single piece and comprises an annulus having an exterior cylindrical surface and a part-spherical upper surface.

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25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 23, wherein the base part is a single piece and spikes extend from the underside of an the exterior cylindrical surface of the base part.

Claim 26 (canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 26, wherein the sighting mechanism comprises a sighting disc that extends to a top of an adjustment member and the sighting disc is received on an end of a circular rod of the probe, the probe having at its lower end a contact member to engage the femur.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the adjustment member is configured to receive magnetic material.

Claim 29 and 30 (canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of locating a guide wire at an axis of a neck of a patient's femur, the method comprising:
securing a base part to the head of the femur at approximately said axis;
appropriately adjusting the attitude of a second part, the second part being securable to and spherically adjustable relative to the base part, prior to fitting thereto a third part;

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fitting the third part to the second part, wherein the third part is for directly or indirectly receiving a wire guide and arranged for plan or adjustment;

setting a planar position of the third part and subsequently adjusting same if necessary in response to engagement of a portion of a probe with the head or neck of the femur; and

inserting the guide wire directly or indirectly into the third part upon any adjustment of the third part's planar position having been completed.